IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of:	)	Group Art Unit:
	)	
BRAGA ILLA et al.	)	Examiner:
	)	
Serial No.: Not yet assigned	)	PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
	)	
Filed: Herewith	)	***EXPRESS MAIL #***
	)	
Atty. File No.: 3918TS-4	)	
	)	
For: "PLATFORM FOR HANDLING DIGITAL CONTENTS COMING FROM HETEROGENEOUS SOURCES"	)	

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the initial review of the above-identified patent application by the Examiner, please enter the following Preliminary Amendment. Although Applicants do not believe that any fees are due based upon the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge any such fees to Deposit Account 19-1970.

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the language at page 16, lines 4-23 with the following:

ABSTRACT

A platform for handling digital contents coming from heterogeneous sources comprising:

an interface with the heterogeneous sources digital contents, designed to acquire heterogeneous digital contents, in various formats, coming from heterogeneous sources to describe them in a uniform way in an internal format independent of the input format;

a central core for storing and managing the digital contents coming from the interface with the heterogeneous sources;

an interface with standard tools for processing digital contents used by operators responsible for managing the digital contents stored in the platform, to obtain value added digital contents in internal format;

an interface with digital media designed to carry out a conversion of the internal format of the value added digital contents in a format designed for publishing of the value added digital contents on respective digital media.

In the Claims:

Claims 1-14 have been amended as follows:

1. A platform for handling digital contents, comprising:

an interface with heterogeneous digital content sources, designed to acquire heterogeneous digital contents in various formats, coming from said heterogeneous sources to describe them in a uniform way in an internal format, which is independent of the input format;

a central core for storage and management of said digital contents coming from the interface with the heterogeneous sources;

an interface with standard tools for processing digital contents, said standard tools being used by operators responsible for processing said digital contents stored in said central core of said platform, to obtain value added digital contents in internal format;

an interface with digital media designed to carry out a conversion of the internal format of the value added digital contents into a format designed for publishing of said value added digital contents on respective digital media.

2. The platform of Claim 1, wherein each digital content source connected to said platform is supplied with a driver designed to convert the flow of digital contents coming from said source into a neutral flow of digital contents independent of the original source, which is designed to be stored in said platform.

3. The platform of Claim 1, wherein each digital medium connected to said platform is provided with a driver that translates the internal format of the value added digital contents stored in said platform into a specific format suitable for the given digital medium in which said digital contents are to be published.

4. The platform of claim 1, wherein said central core comprises a data layer comprising a database for storing digital contents and a service layer consisting of procedures for handling said digital contents.

5. The platform of Claim 4, wherein said data layer comprises a database for storing the contents, a database for storing the description of the contents, a database for storing publishing rules, and a database for storing the profiles of the various users that access the platform.

6. The platform of Claim 4, wherein said central core comprises a search engine for searching for the digital contents stored in the data layer, an engine for generating the palimpsest in the case of digital contents addressed to unidirectional media, a workflow engine for handling the process of approval of publishing of the digital contents on the corresponding media, and a personalization service to enable a presentation of the digital contents on the basis of preferences expressed by the user during registration of the personalization service.

7. The platform of claim 1, wherein said interface with standard tools for processing digital contents comprises:

an authoring layer designed to provide tools for defining the modalities of presentation of the digital contents on the specific digital media; and

an editing layer designed to provide the tools for generating and entering digital contents in the central core of the platform.

8. The platform of claim 1, comprising system management tools that may be used by a system administrator.

9. The platform of Claim 8, wherein said system management tools comprise tools for monitoring system resources, tools for network management, and tools for managing the database of the platform.

10. The platform of claim 1 integrated with tools for electronic trading, in order to manage online the electronic trading of the digital contents, such as sale, acquisition, management and distribution on the media.

11. The platform of claim 1, wherein said standard tools for processing the digital contents are selected from the group consisting of Microsoft Office® and Adobe Pagemaker®.

12. The platform of claim 1, wherein said digital contents coming from heterogeneous sources are realtime data, news agency data, audio and video data, advertising data, data coming from telefax and Email, data coming from voice respond units VRUs, and data in XML format.

13. The platform of claim 1, wherein said digital media are WAP (Wireless Application Protocol), Data Broadcasting, Teletext (televideo), SMS (cellphones), Web, XML, and digital TV.

14. The platform of claim 1, wherein the internal format in which said digital contents are stored and managed in said central core of said platform is the XML (eXtensible Markup Language) format.

REMARKS

This First Preliminary Amendment is provided to place sections of the specification and all of the claims in a format believed to be acceptable to the U.S. Patent Examiner. None of the amendments made is intended to be, nor shall properly be construed as, a narrowing of the present invention.

No new matter has been added to the specification by the above amendments.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. In the event that the Examiner has any questions regarding Applicants' position, the Examiner is invited to contact the below named attorney at (303) 863-9700.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

By: Robert D. Traver

Robert D. Traver
Registration No. 47,999
1560 Broadway, Suite 1200
Denver, CO 80202-5141
(303) 863-9700

Date: 12 April 2001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

The language at page 16, lines 4-23, has been amended as follows:

ABSTRACT

A platform ~~(CIMP; 1)~~ for handling digital contents coming from heterogeneous sources comprising:

- an interface ~~(UVCS; 3)~~ with the heterogeneous sources ~~(DCS)~~ digital contents, designed to acquire heterogeneous digital contents ~~(DC)~~, in various formats, coming from heterogeneous sources ~~(DCS)~~ to describe them in a uniform way in an internal format ~~(SIDC)~~ independent of the input format;
- a central core ~~(2)~~ for storing and managing the digital contents ~~(SIDC)~~ coming from the interface with the heterogeneous sources;
- an interface ~~(VTL; 4, 5)~~ with standard tools ~~(DTP)~~ for processing digital contents used by operators ~~(17, 20)~~ responsible for managing the digital contents stored in the platform ~~(1)~~, to obtain value added digital contents in internal format ~~(VADC)~~;
- an interface ~~(MID; 6)~~ with digital media ~~(DM)~~ designed to carry out a conversion of the internal format of the value added digital contents ~~(VADC)~~ in a format designed for publishing of the value added digital contents on respective digital media ~~(DM)~~.

~~Fig. 2~~

In the Claims:

Claims 1-14 have been amended as follows:

1. A platform ~~(CIMP; 1)~~ for handling digital contents, comprising:

- an interface ~~(UVCS; 3)~~ with heterogeneous digital content sources ~~(DCS)~~, designed to acquire heterogeneous digital contents ~~(DC)~~ in various formats, coming from said heterogeneous

sources ~~(DCS)~~ to describe them in a uniform way in an internal format ~~(SIDC)~~, which is independent of the input format;

- a central core ~~(2)~~ for storage and management of said digital contents ~~(SIDC)~~ coming from the interface with the heterogeneous sources;
- an interface ~~(VTL; 4, 5)~~ with standard tools ~~(DTP)~~ for processing digital contents, said standard tools ~~(DTP)~~ being used by operators ~~(17, 20)~~ responsible for processing said digital contents stored in said central core ~~(2)~~ of said platform ~~(1)~~, to obtain value added digital contents in internal format ~~(VADC)~~;
- an interface ~~(MID; 6)~~ with digital media ~~(DM)~~ designed to carry out a conversion of the internal format of the value added digital contents ~~(VADC)~~ into a format designed for publishing of said value added digital contents ~~(VADC)~~ on respective digital media ~~(DM)~~.

2. The platform ~~(CIMP; 1)~~ of ~~according to~~ Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ each digital content source ~~(DCS)~~ connected to said platform ~~(CIMP; 1)~~ is supplied with a driver ~~(CSD)~~ designed to convert the flow of digital contents ~~(DC)~~ coming from said source ~~(DCS)~~ into a neutral flow of digital contents independent of the original source, which is designed to be stored in said platform.

3. The platform ~~(CIMP; 1)~~ of ~~according to~~ Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ each digital medium ~~(DM)~~ connected to said platform ~~(CIMP; 1)~~ is provided with a driver ~~(MPD)~~ that translates the internal format of the value added digital contents ~~(VADC)~~ stored in said platform into a specific format suitable for the given digital medium ~~(DM)~~ in which said digital contents are to be published.

4. The platform of claim 1~~(1) according to any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said central core ~~(2)~~ comprises a data layer ~~(30)~~ comprising a database for storing digital contents and a service layer ~~(40)~~ consisting of procedures for handling said digital contents.

5. The platform ~~(1)~~ of ~~according to~~ Claim 4, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said data layer ~~(30)~~ comprises a database ~~(31)~~ for storing the contents, a database ~~(32)~~ for storing the description of the contents, a database ~~(33)~~ for storing publishing rules, and a database ~~(34)~~ for storing the profiles of the various users that access the platform ~~(1)~~.

6. The platform ~~(1)~~ of ~~according to~~ Claim 4 ~~or Claim 5~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said central core ~~(2)~~ comprises a search engine ~~(41)~~ for searching for the digital contents stored in

the data layer ~~(30)~~, an engine ~~(42)~~ for generating the palimpsest in the case of digital contents addressed to unidirectional media, a workflow engine ~~(43)~~ for handling the process of approval of publishing of the digital contents on the corresponding media, and a personalization service ~~(44)~~ to enable a presentation of the digital contents on the basis of preferences expressed by the user during registration of the personalization service ~~(44)~~.

7. The platform of claim 1~~(1) according to any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said interface ~~(VTL; 4, 5)~~ with standard tools ~~(DTP)~~ for processing digital contents comprises:

- an authoring layer ~~(4)~~ designed to provide tools for defining the modalities of presentation of the digital contents on the specific digital media; and
- an editing layer ~~(5)~~ designed to provide the tools for generating and entering digital contents in the central core ~~(2)~~ of the platform ~~(1)~~.

8. The platform of claim 1~~(1) according to any one of the preceding claims~~, comprising ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ system management tools ~~(50)~~ that may be used by a system administrator ~~(51)~~.

9. The platform ~~(1)~~ of ~~according to~~ Claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said system management tools comprise tools for monitoring system resources, tools for network management, and tools for managing the database of the platform ~~(1)~~.

10. The platform of claim 1~~(1) according to any one of the preceding claims~~, ~~characterized in that it is~~ integrated with tools ~~(60)~~ for electronic trading, in order to manage online the electronic trading of the digital contents~~, such as sale, acquisition, management and distribution on the media~~.

11. The platform of claim 1~~(1) according to any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said standard tools ~~(DTP)~~ for processing the digital contents are selected from the group consisting of Microsoft Office® and Adobe Pagemaker®.

12. The platform of claim 1~~(1) according to any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said digital contents ~~(DC)~~ coming from heterogeneous sources are selected from the group consisting of realtime data ~~(8)~~, news agency data ~~(9)~~, audio and video data ~~(10)~~, advertising data ~~(11)~~, data coming from telefax and Email ~~(12)~~, data coming from voice respond units VRUs ~~(13)~~, and data in XML format ~~(14)~~.

13. The platform of claim 1~~(1) according to any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said digital media ~~(DM)~~ are selected from the group consisting of WAP (Wireless Application Protocol) ~~21~~, Data Broadcasting ~~22~~, Teletext (televideo) ~~23~~, SMS (cellphones) ~~24~~, Web ~~25~~, XML ~~26~~, and digital TV ~~27~~.

14. The platform of claim 1~~(1) according to any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the internal format in which said digital contents are stored and managed in said central core ~~(2)~~ of said platform ~~(1)~~ is the XML (eXtensible Markup Language) format.